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WASHINGTON SURF REPORT

Welcome to the Washington Surf Report! I hope you will find this report to be a useful tool in keeping up with the activities of the United States House of Representatives and to highlight the 50th District of California. This report will be updated every week so that you can follow the issues that are important to you. I appreciate the opportunity to represent you in the House of Representatives.



Bilbray urges CCAT to consider both civilian, military markets

By: Elizabeth Malloy

Congressman Brian Bilbray, R-Carlsbad, said local trade group CCAT is like his "baby," and he wants to make sure it keeps growing, but one way to do that is to look into civilian applications for products as well as defense and military purposes that bring in big contracts.

"Civilian applications should be in the back of your mind," Bilbray told a group of leaders from San Diego-area tech companies assembled by CCAT. "There's niches out there that are just ... extraordinary."

Bilbray highlighted companies like **Magellan**, which made GPS systems thinking the military would be a prime customer, but are now even more widely used in automobiles.

CCAT (the Center for Commercialization of Advanced Technology) gives money and expertise to startup technology companies and helps them find defense and other contracts for their products. The organization was founded in 2001 with help from Bilbray, who was in office at the time. In June he was elected to finish out Randall "Duke" Cunningham's term in the U.S. House of Representatives, and he is running to be elected to a full term in November. While he's in office, Bilbray said defense is his first priority and with both he and Duncan Hunter, R-Alpine, on the House Armed Services Committee (Hunter is the chairman), attention is focused on San Diego's defense sector.

"It is astonishing that everybody thought that the days of national defense in San Diego were over with when the big missile manufacturers packed up," Bilbray said. "What happened was they were literally replaced with high-tech applications and as we went from building a lot of missiles and big bombs, we now have the spy in the sky and remote little model planes that kill terrorists. It's astonishing how much high-tech military applications we have."

Bilbray credited the military presence in San Diego as having the biggest effect on the region's depth in the defense sector. The military is becoming more technical and the sailors and marines who leave the military but remain in San Diego bring with them a lot of knowledge and ideas.

Bilbray again noted that civilian applications are a way for local companies to expand their horizons, saying that the pairing of private industry with the public sector is important because private industry can move at a much quicker pace. Bilbray likened his job to CCAT's, but said that while CCAT aims to get young companies through the murky waters of financing and market research, he wants to help cut through government red tape.

"Part of the job of being an elected official at this level is to bridge the gap between reality and practical application, and bureaucracy and theory," he said. "Bureaucracy by its nature is not real responsive to innovation or reality."



Congressman Bilbray recently participated in a roundtable discussion hosted by the Center for Commercialization of Advanced Technology (CCAT).



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